

Sustaining Oral Health Programs in New Hampshire

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Background

- NH: the “*Live Free or Die*” state
 - No state sales or income tax
- 3 health departments in NH
 - No county-level health departments
- OHP funding has not changed since 1998
 - OHP office & position -100% state funds
 - 19 OH contracts - 50% PHHS BG

50% State Funds

TOTAL BUDGET \$615,000

- creative thinking “outside the box”



Background (cont.)

- Adult Medicaid dental benefit
 - Tooth extraction
 - Relief of pain/infection
- NH Medicaid Reimbursement
 - Fee for Service

NH Medicaid CHAP Provider Category

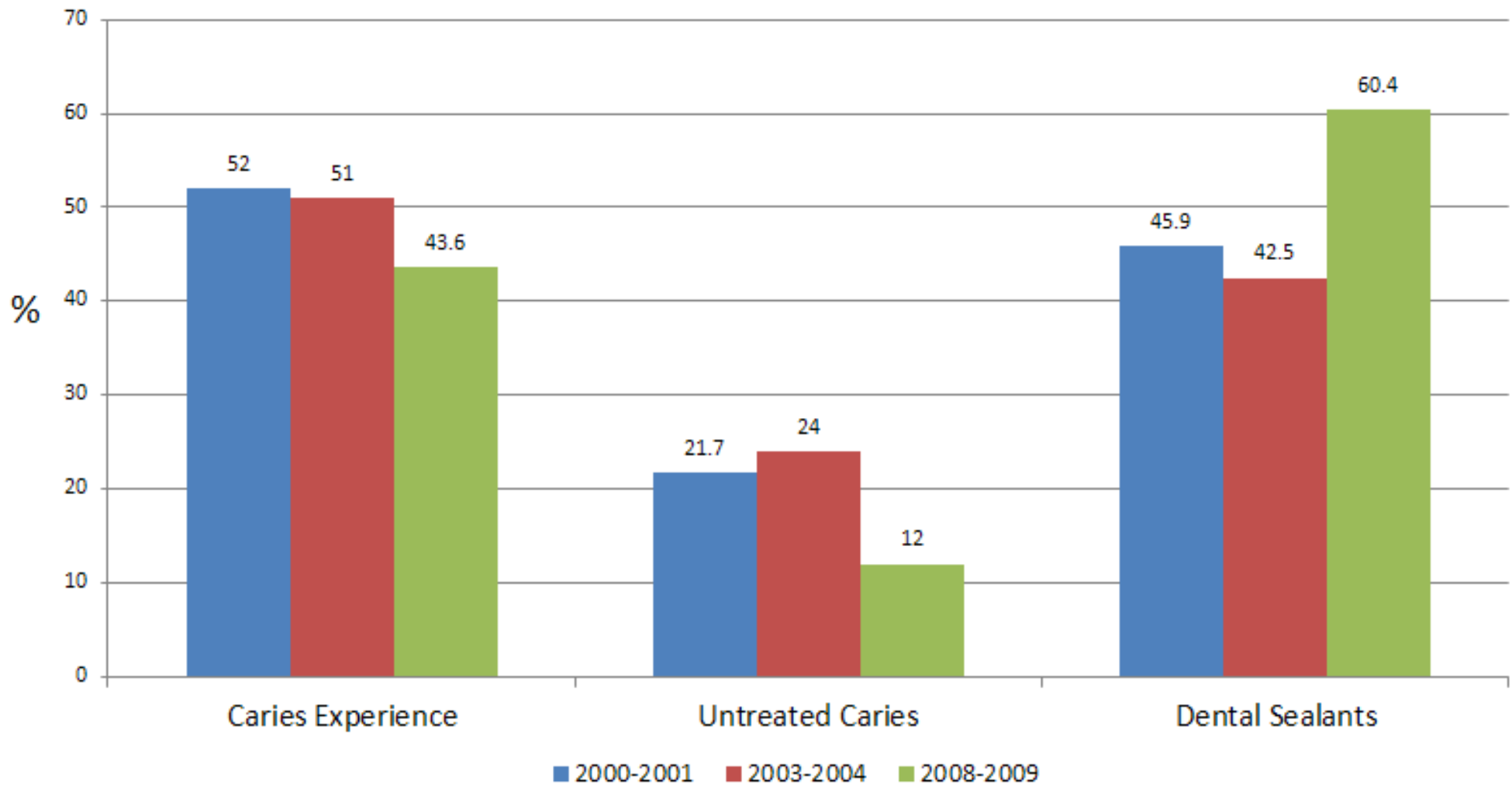
- Until 2013- No dental school/students in northern NE
- Pays sponsoring agencies for
 - Prophies
 - Application Topical Fluoride & Sealants
- Public Health Supervision for RDHs in:
 - Schools
 - Head Start
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - Senior Centers & Congregate Meal Sites

Lessons Learned

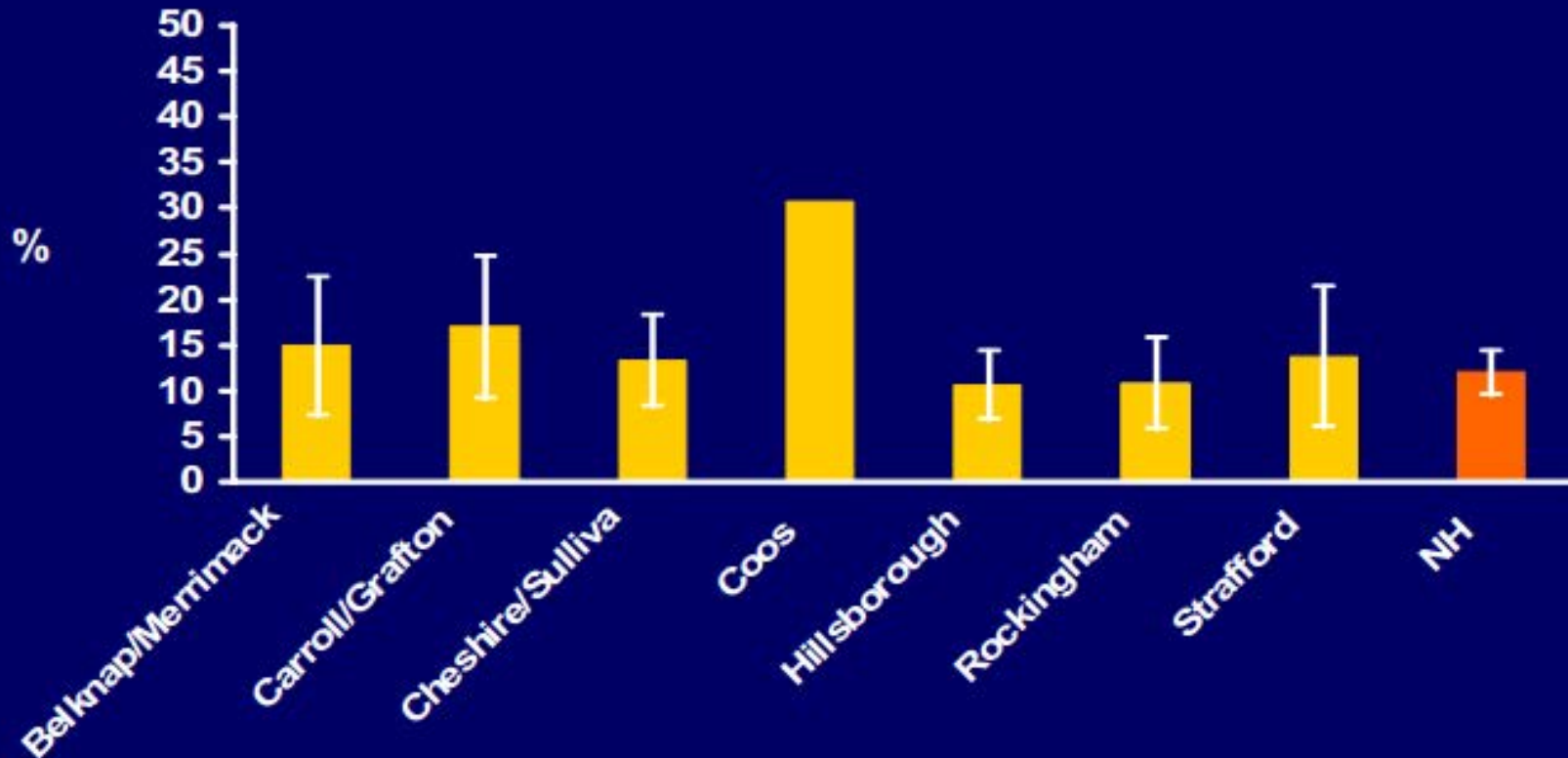
1. Good data drives programs

- 2007 Head Start Survey
- Third Grade OH Surveys
 - 2001, 2004
- Third Grade OH/BMI *Healthy Smiles - Healthy Growth* Surveys
 - 2009, 2014 (in progress)
- Senior OH Surveys
 - 2009, 2011, 2014 (in progress)

Third Grade Oral Health Survey, New Hampshire, 2001, 2004, 2009



Percent of New Hampshire Third Grade Students with Untreated Decay, by Region, 2008-2009 School Year



Third Grade Healthy Smiles & Healthy Growth Survey — New Hampshire, 2008–2009
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Lessons Learned

2. Skilled Epidemiologist with OH interest is essential to success

- Directs surveys, sampling, data collection, and reports results
- Published journal articles provide program legitimacy and credibility

Lessons Learned

3. Start Small

- Pilot/demonstration projects

4. Create a demand for your services

- Advocates for children, pregnant women, seniors
- Advertise your success
 - Posters, publications, project presentations to OH stakeholders





Lessons Learned

5. Foundations/agencies will pay for well-done surveys to collect data that supports their mission
 - Healthy NH Foundation
 - NH Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services
 - City of Nashua Health Department
 - Refugee Advocacy : Concord & Manchester, NH
 - Jessie B. Cox Foundation, Boston MA
 - Northeast Delta Dental Foundation

Lessons Learned

6. Dedicated Workforce

- PH hygienists serve underserved populations in non-traditional settings
 - Take services to where the clients are
- Provide preventive services to people without access
- Link clients to local dental offices
- Programs are reimbursed/ partially sustained by NH Medicaid-CHAP

For More Information

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